I COULD NEVER RELEASE YOU FROM THAT HIDDEN ROOM IN MY HEART.
密室の密かな星
第1話

OUCH OUCH OUCH!
STOP THAT, KIT-TIES!
JUST LET ME CHECK YOUR MARKINGS FIRST, AND I'LL LET YOU GO.
EH?
KONDO DETECTIVE OFFICE
WHA...

KONDO DETECTIVE OFFICE
WAIT A MIN-UTE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HEY HEY HEY!
UKAI DETECTIVE OFFICE
ARE YOU LOOK-ING FOR TROUBLE?
DIDN'T YOU SEE THIS THING HERE?
AH,
ARE YOU MY NEIGH-BOR?
I JUST MOVED HERE TODAY
PLEASE LOOK AFTER ME
HUH?

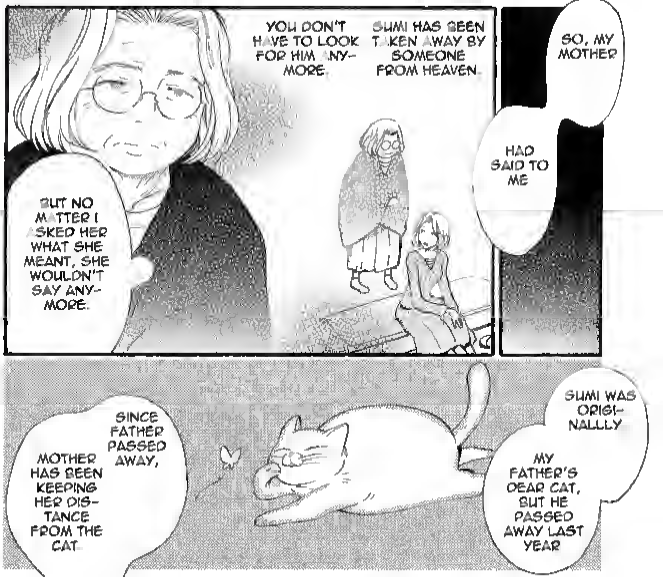
CHIKA ?
ARE YOU CHIKA ?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE CALLED ME BY THAT NICKNAME
ARE YOU UKAI ?
AH, HOW NOSTAGIC
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE GRADUATION
COME, GET IN.
I'LL POUR YOU A CUP OF TEA.
HA HA
BESIDES, I HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THAT SIGN
ガチャ
REALLY
IS THAT IT ?
CHIKA
ALSO KNOWN AS KONDO NAOZUMI
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGH-ING AT?
NOTHING IT JUST FEELS LIKE WE ARE REALLY CLOSE

HE WAS MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS-MATE
HE WOULD SOMETIMES SHOW UP WHEN I WAS HANGING OUT WITH A GROUP OF 5 OR 6 FRIENDS
WE WERE SOMEWHAT DISTANT ACQUAIN-TANCES
OH
THIS ROOM
IT HAS GLOW IN THE DARK WALLPAPER
HERE
IT'S REALLY AWESOME, RIGHT?

GIVEN THAT WE WERE ONCE CLASSMATES, WHY DON'T YOU CUT ME SOME SLACK, AND WE'LL TRY TO GET ALONG
DON'T SAY THAT
I JUST TURNED IN MY BUSINESS APPLICATION YESTERDAY
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR REASONS ARE
BY STARTING THE SAME BUSINESS NEXT DOOR TO ME, YOU ARE CAUSING ME CONSIDERABLE STRESS
YOU NEED TO MOVE
I'M GOING TO GET STRAIGHT TO IT

キョロ
I SAID YOU ARE CAUSING ME PROBLEMS
SORRY TO INTERRUPT
KURIHARA SAN!
I WAS JUST CHECKING THE MARKINGS ON THE CATS I FOUND.
SO
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE MISSING CAT
?
SO THE CASE IS ABOUT THIS CAT THAT WENT MISSING 4 DAYS AGO.
THE LARGE CAT WITH 3 ROUND MARKS ON ITS STOMACH
スミちゃん 5才

WE ARE ALL EARS
ABOUT THIS CASE,
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS NEVER A CASE OF THE KITTY GETTING LOST.
BUT I'VE ALREADY OVER HEARD
MIGHT AS WELL LET ME HELP
HAVE YOU NOT HEARD OF SOMETHING CALLED PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY?
GET OUT.


YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FOR HIM ANYMORE.
SUMI HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY SOMEONE FROM HEAVEN.
SO, MY MOTHER
HAD SAID TO ME
BUT NO MATTER I ASKED HER WHAT SHE MEANT, SHE WOULDN'T SAY ANYMORE.
SUMI WAS ORIGINALLLY
MY FATHER'S DEAR CAT, BUT HE PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR
SINCE FATHER PASSED AWAY,
MOTHER HAS BEEN KEEPING HER DISTANCE FROM THE CAT.

I THINK, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT MOTHER HAD THROWN SUMI AWAY
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP ON SUMI
I'M HOPING THAT YOU TWO CAN HELP ME
SO WHAT TO DO?
HAVE YOU CALLED THE SHELTERS?
THAT WAS THE FIRST I DID
BUT, THIS DOES MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT
IF HE WAS THROWN OUT, THEN THE SEARCH AREA IS MUCH BIGGER
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME JUST BECAUSE THIS CASE IS ABOUT A MISSING CAT
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT MY DETECTIVE AGENCY WILL DO ITS UTMOST FOR EVEN THE SMALLEST CAST
I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING

I'LL TEACH HIM JUST HOW BORING AND DIFFICULT THE LIFE OF A DETECTIVE CAN BE
4
THE MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?
SINCE I'M DON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO RIGHT NOW, I'LL HELP YOU!

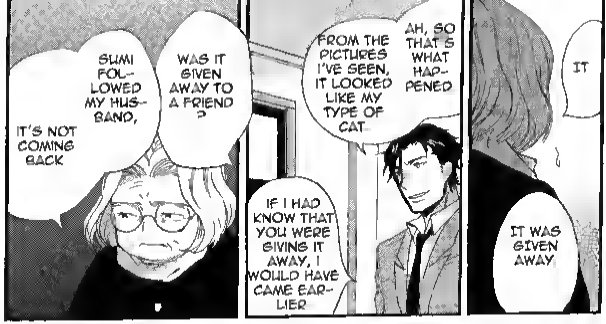
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT
LET ME GET TO IT STRAIGHT, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? GATHER DATA?
NO
ALRIGHT, I GOT IT
ON THE OTHER HAND YOU ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER LEAVING HERE

IF WE CAN TRUST THAT, THEN THE CAT WAS GIVEN AWAY TO SOMEONE
GRANNY SAID THE KITTY WAS "TAKEN AWAY" BY SMEONE, RIGHT?
WHY?
I THINK IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT IT WAS GIVEN AWAY
EVEN THOUGH SHE SAID THROWN AWAY,

FOR-GET ABOUT THE HEAVEN PART!
CAN YOU REALLY TRUST IN SOMEONE FROM HEAVEN?
YOU CAN'T BE FOOLED BY THE UN-CERTAINTY.
FINDING OUT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM IS THE MOST IMPORTANT
OHHH, JUST LIKE A DE-TEC-TIVE.
THAT GRANNY
KNOWS WHO
TOOK AWAY THE KITTY.
AND THAT'S THE REAL TRUTH!
THEN LET'S GO AND ASK THE GRANNY
HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU CAN'T JUST ASK THE SUS-PECT DIRECTLY!
BUT ASKING DIRECTLY IS THE QUICKEST WAY
IF THERE PROB-LEMS AT THE HOME CONTIN-UES TO WORSEN, THEN EVEN IF WE FIND THE CAT, THERE'S NO POINT.
THE REAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THE GRANNY, NOT THE CAT, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

HUH ?
UKAI YOU ARE PRETTY FUNNY
TRUTH BE TOLD, I DON'T REALLY KNOWN HOW TO REDUCE.
OH OK
YOU ARE RIGHT WE'LL DO JUST AS YOU SAID
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT
I'M REALLY GLAD

I'LL GO AS A KOUHAI OF HER DECEASED HUSBAND'S
TRY TO GET HER TO TALK.
AH, REALLY I'M SO SORRY, DID IT PASS AWAY ALREADY?
NO
SUMI IS NO LONGER HERE IN THIS HOUSE
SENPAI FREQUENTLY SPOKE OF THE CAT TO ME
THE CAT WITH THREE CIRCULAR INK DOTS ON THE STOMACH


IT
IT WAS GIVEN AWAY
AH, SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
FROM THE PICTURES I'VE SEEN, IT LOOKED LIKE MY TYPE OF CAT
IF I HAD KNOW THAT YOU WERE GIVING IT AWAY, I WOULD HAVE CAME EARLIER
WAS IT GIVEN AWAY TO A FRIEND ?
SUMI FOLLOWED MY HUSBAND,
IT'S NOT COMING BACK

FOLLOWED YOUR HUSBAND?
WENT TO HEAVEN ?
MEOW
CAN'T HEAD THE GRANNY

MEOW
ALRIGHT
GO BACK

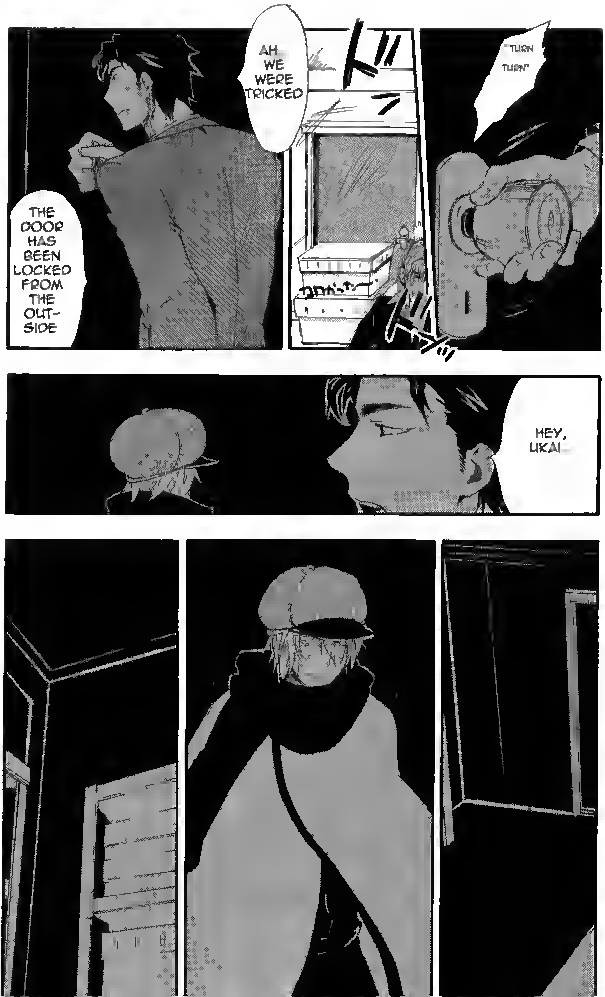
SU
SUMI
FATHER?
KURIHARA-SAN SUMI HAS BEEN FOUND!
UKAI?
THAT VOICE JUST NOW—
EH? THAT'S GREAT!
OI!
OH, BUT SO YOUNG?
STOP!

BE
BECAUSE YOU ARE CHASING ME...
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
YOU THERE, STOP RIGHT THERE
WAIT

OI!
YOU CAT THIEF!
YOU ARE CLEARLY RUNNING BECAUSE YOU ARE GUILTY OF SOMETHING
I DIDN'T

WHERE DID HE GO?

OUCH OUCH OUCH!
GOTCHA!
IT HURTS!
HOW?
CHIKA?
IT'S ME!
KLUNK
WHY ARE YOU...
BECAUSE I SAW SOME-ONE RUN-NING INTO THIS ALLEY


THE DOOR HAS BEEN LOCKED FROM THE OUT-SIDE
AH WE WERE TRICKED
TURN TURN
HEY, UKAI

WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING
WHERE IS THE LIGHT SWITCH?
IT'S NOT TURNING ON
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ELECTRICITY TO THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CUT.
OH... THIS IS A PRETTY STICKY SITUATION

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD
UKAI
?

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT—
YOU ARE SCARED OF THE DARK

I'VE PURPOSEFULLY NEVER TOLD ANYONE ELSE
SO YOU ACTUALLY KNEW
WE CAN CALL FOR HELP
CELL SIGNAL IS STILL THERE
AH
YOU USED TO SKIP CLASSES THAT WERE HELD IN DARK CLASSROOMS

WHAT ?
?
GO AHEAD AND PRE-TEND
IT'S OUR GRADU-ATION TRIP.
TWO AM IN THE MORN-ING, EVERYONE IS PILED UP IN THE SAME ROOM.
AND THEN, THE TEACH-ER SHOWS UP ....
SO WE ARE HIDDING UNDER THE COVERS TO NOT GET CAUGHT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
I'M TELLING YOU TO HURRY UP AND GO TO SLEEP

IT'S ALRIGHT, IT'S ALRIGHT.

CHIKA, OVER HERE!
HEY, THE TEACHER IS COMING.
QUICK, HIDE!
HA HA HA
CHIKA, YOU IDIOT
I REMEMBER IT VERY CLEARLY.
CHIKA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
YOU DION'T TRY TO HIDE UNDER THE COVERS AT ALL.
HEY, YOU ARE GOING TO !? GET CAUGHT!
QUICKLY

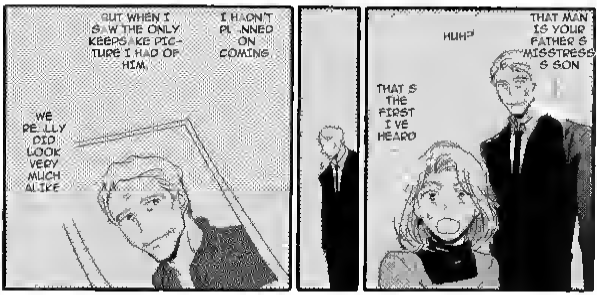
SERIOUSLY? EVEN SHE'S FALLEN UNDER HIS SPELL?
WHOA, ISN'T THAT SANO-SAN?
EXCELLENT STUDENT, ACCOMPLISHED ATHLETE. ULTRA POPULAR AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS. A GOOD PERSON. HE'S THE MODEL EXAMPLE OF A PERFECT PERSON
CHIKA IS
ALL THE MALE STUDENTS REGARDED HIM WITH A MIXTURE OF ADMIRATION AND JEALOUSY.
YOU GET MAD ABOUT THIS TOO,
I ALREADY HAVE MY ANGEL. I DON'T NEED TO GET JEALOUS OF HIM.
AS DID I
AND SO THAT REJECTION
STRUCK ME QUITE HARD

GOOD MORN-ING.
.....

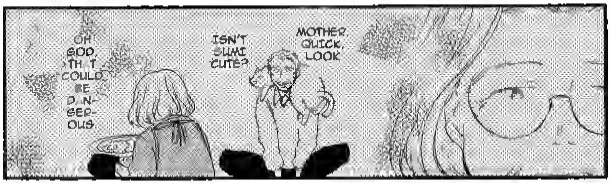
WELL, ABOUT THAT
JUST PRETEND THAT YOU WERE RAVISHED BY A BIG BAD WOLF AND FORGET THAT ANYONE HAD HAPPENED
WHY AM I NAKED?
I WAS JUST KIDDING, YOU IDIOT
YOU THREW UP ALL OF A SUDDEN IN YOUR SLEEP, SO TOOK THE DIRTY SHIRT OFF YOU. THEN YOU STARTED WHINING ABOUT BEING TOO COLD, AND HUDDLED RIGHT UP AGAINST ME
YOU,
YOU GOD-DAMNED BASTARD!
AH! THE CAT? THE CAT THEF?
OH
REALLY SCARED ME THERE
TOTALLY SCARED ME. MADE ME THINK SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENED
AH SO THAT HAPPENED

KUBI-HARA-SAN IS GOING TO COME BY IN A BIT,
I'LL GO OVER IT THEN.
YES-TER-DAY AFTER-WARDS
THIS GENTLE-MAN HERE STOPPED BY.

I CAN'T GO ON HIDING THIS ANY-MORE
MOTHER WHY DOES THIS PERSON LOOK SO MUCH LIKE FATHER?
THAT I WASN'T A CAT THIEF
I ONLY WANTED TO EX-PLAIN


BUT WHEN I SAW THE ONLY KEEPSAKE PIC-TURE I HAD OF HIM,
I HADN'T PLANNED ON COMING.
WE REALLY DID LOOK VERY MUCH ALIKE
HUH?
THAT MAN IS YOUR FATHER'S MISSTRESS'S SON
THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD

SO HEAVY
MEOW
DID YOU NOT THINK HOW I WOULD FEEL?
PLEASE LEAVE
BUT
SO I WANTED TO COME AND PAY MY RESPECTS
LEAVE


OH GOD, TH T COULD BE D-N-GER-OUS.
ISN'T SUMI CUTE?
MOTHER, QUICK, LOOK

SINCE SUMI TOOK A LIKING TO HIM,
MOTHER FELT THAT IT WAS BETTER TO LEAVE SUMI WITH HIM INSTEAD
HEY, GET OFF
WAIT, BUT THE CAT
ENOUGH, PLEASE LEAVE
TAKE
TAKE IT
THAT'S PART OF HIS ESTATE
PLEASE JUST LEAVE.
I'LL GIVE THE CAT TO YOU.

LOGICAL CONCLUSION
WE GOT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CASE WITHOUT NEEDING ANY DETECTIVE WORK.
I DIDN'T KNOW FATHER HAD STRAYED, SO SHE PLANNED ON HIDING THIS FROM ME
REALLY
I'M NOT EVEN MAD
SO IT'S BEEN SOLVED. THAT'S GREAT
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP
ALLOW ME TO SEE YOU OUT
ABOUT THAT, I'M REALLY SORRY
EVEN THOUGH I WAS FRIGHTENED
BUT TO ACTUALLY LOCK UP THE TWO OF YOU
BEING CHASED LIKE THAT REALLY WAS QUITE TERRIFYING

DO IT AGAIN NEXT TIME AND I WILL KILL YOU.
WHAT....
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHEN YOU WERE GOING NOTICE
UKAI KONDO DETECTIVE OFFICE
NOTH-ING.

Title: Misshitsu no Hisoka na Hoshi
Author: Amagakure Gido
Chapter 1

Scans: sora348
Translation: sakiscans